

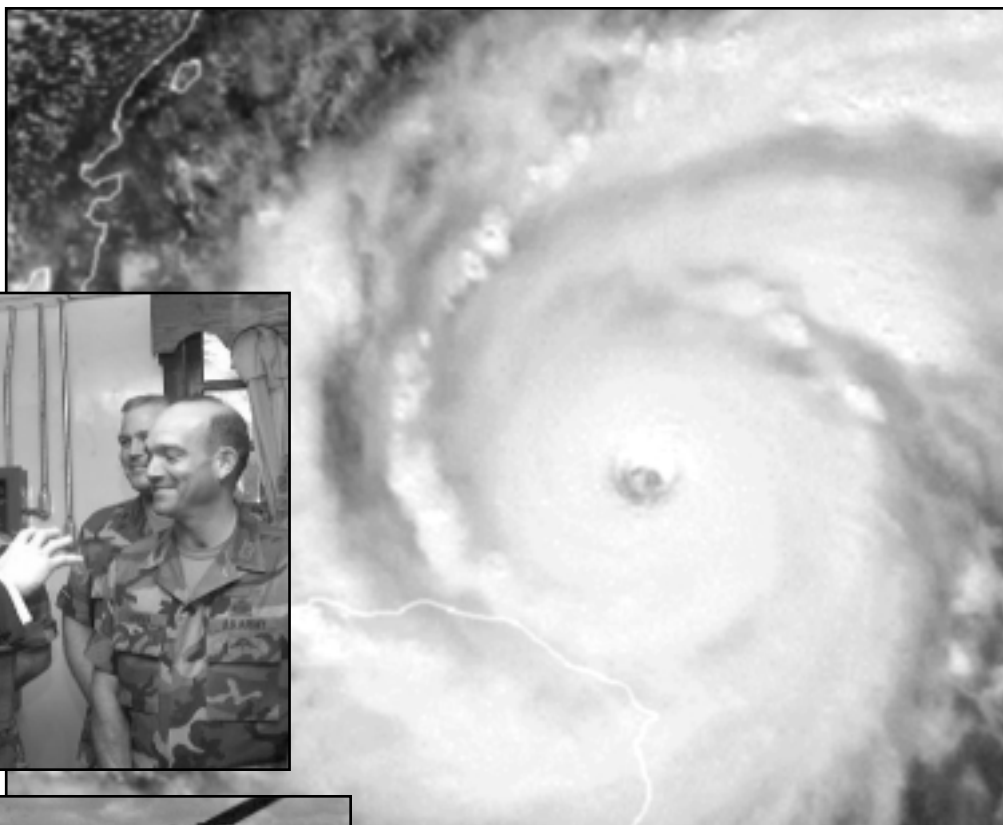
Soto Cano Air Base Welcome Guide



Joint Task Force Bravo

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Section I

History, Mission and Vision of JTF-Bravo

History

- 1982 - Palmerola Air Base constructed
- 1983 - Joint Task Force 11 established
 - Redesignated as JTF-Alpha
- 1984 - JTF-Alpha redesignated as JTF-Bravo
 - Deter Nicaraguan aggression (2000+ Personnel)
 - Provide command and control of US military forces deployed to Joint Operations Area
- 1992-1994 - Transitional period (1130 Personnel)
 - Bilateral humanitarian and civil assistance operations
- 1995 - Downsizing/Reorganization (710 Personnel)
- 1996 - Revised OPOD Central Champs (499 Personnel)

JTF-Bravo Mission

- * Conduct and support joint, combined and interagency operations in the Joint Operations Area to enhance regional cooperative security

JTF-Bravo Vision

- * CINC's agent to promote multinational cooperation in JOA
- Positive interaction through combined exercises, conferences and operations
- * Supporting command in the region for US MIL GROUP commanders
- Assist humanitarian and civic assistance planning and execution
- Provide disaster relief, search and rescue, and MEDEVAC support, and assistance for DEA counterdrug operations
- Interagency support and media coverage to demonstrate US commitment to the region
- * Provide strategic flexibility for SOUTHCOM regional engagement

Section II

JTF-Bravo Subordinate Commands

Army Forces (ARFOR)

* Exercises command of and provides administrative support for U.S. Army members assigned or attached to JTF-Bravo

* Provides C2 and logistical support for deployments for training (DFTs)/overseas deployments for training (ODTs) in the joint operations area (JOA)

* Provides logistical support to JTF-B elements on Soto Cano AB

* Provides finance support to JTF-B



Air Force Forces (AFFOR)

* Joint Task Force Bravo's AF Forces are composed of 166 personnel assigned to Detachment 1, 612th Air Operations Group for a oneyear unaccompanied remote assignment. The AFFOR provides all airfield operations support and AF administrative personnel support. In addition, 38 AF personnel serve in joint matters and work on the JTF-B joint staff and Joint Security Forces.

* Vision: A unified team, providing air operations support to the joint and coalition forces engaged in joint and combined operations to enhance Central American cooperative security and regional stability.

* Mission: Serve as the air component to JTF-B providing air base support including logistics, air traffic control, base civil engineering, fire department, AF personnel support and joint matters. Maintains Soto Cano AB as the strategic launch pad in Central America for US SOUTHCOM's strategy, disaster relief, civic and humanitarian assistance, and counterdrug operations in the six-country Joint Operations Area.

* Goals: Maintain and improve airfield capabilities to meet expanding JTF-Bravo mission requirements.

* Provide safe working and living conditions and improve quality of life.

* Foster a cooperative relationship with our Honduran hosts.

* Cultivate an environment that promotes empowerment, teamwork and continuous improvement.



1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment (1-228th)

* A tenant unit of Soto Cano Air Base, 1-228th's falls under U.S. Army Southern Command, located at Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

* 1-228th is a composite battalion composed of the Talons (12 UH-60s), the Sugar Bears (4 CH-47s), a MEDEVAC detachment (4 UH-60s), and the Phantoms (HHC) Two Talon aircraft are permanently assigned to Puerto Rico as the CINC Detachment.

* 1-228th supports the SOUTHCOM area of operation in Central and South America. Most missions involve counterdrug, humanitarian assistance, and VIP air movement in support of JTF-Bravo.

* As the only SOUTHCOM Army aviation unit, 1-228th is responsible for the command and control of all organic and attached Army aviation in the AOR.

Joint Security Force (JSF)

* Provides uninterrupted law enforcement and security in support of JTF-Bravo personnel, facilities and equipment

* Maintains liaison with U.S. Government and host nation law enforcement agencies

* Supports operations as directed by Commander, JTF-Bravo



Medical Element (MEDEL)

* Provides emergency and limited routine health care for US Forces stationed and training in Honduras, and eligible beneficiaries

* Provides emergency medical care in order to preserve life, limb and vision

* Conducts humanitarian and civic assistance operations through Medical Readiness Training Exercises in order to enhance US and Central American relations

* Works with the Honduran Ministry of Health and Armed Forces to provide care to indigent and underserved Hondurans

* Supports specialty team visits each year, to include plastic surgeons, ear, nose and throat teams, and ophthalmologists

* All personnel deploying to Soto Cano AB should be aware that the MEDEL Pharmacy, while stocking a wide variety of medications, is limited in scope. Usually, only one or two of a particular class of drug is included in our formulary. Limitations in the supply system can often result in lengthy delays in obtaining new stock. Therefore, it is highly advisable that those personnel who are on long-term, prescription medications deploy with enough medication to last throughout their stay.

* Malaria pills (Chloroquine) should be taken weekly starting two weeks prior to arrival. Additional pills can be obtained from the pharmacy after arrival.



Section III

Your Assignment to Honduras

Soto Cano Air Base

* Honduran military installation and home of the Honduran Air Force Academy

* Located 10 miles from Comayagua (population: 33,000), and 60 miles from the Honduran Capitol, Tegucigalpa

* Approximately two miles wide and six miles long; lies in the Comayagua Valley, ringed by 8,000-foot mountain peaks to the east and west

* Elevation: 2,062 feet above sea level

Getting to Soto Cano

* Most personnel arrive via the “Freedom Bird” which conducts weekly flights, currently every Thursday from Charleston AFB, SC, direct to Soto Cano.

* Personnel arriving by commercial flight into Tegucigalpa can make the 45 minute drive to Soto Cano by catching the daily shuttle bus, which

departs from the airport shortly after noon.

* Soldiers who don’t make this connection are encouraged to stay at the “White House (La Casa Blanca), a safe house in Tegucigalpa which is run by JTF-Bravo’s LNO to the Embassy. It is located at Colonia Loma Linda Norte, #299, Avenida F.A.O. You can take a taxi from the airport for a nominal fee, or call 232-0712 and the military LNO will pick you up. The White House is not a hotel, so bring appropriate toiletries and a towel.

Facilities

* Lodging consists of “hootches” and metal barracks

* Hootches are temporary wooden buildings of tropical design, normally 16-feet by 32-feet with screened windows and a tin roof with fans for cooling

* Metal barracks are more permanent structures and have air conditioners. Both contain televisions, VCRs, refrigerators, microwaves and hot plates.

* Latrines, shower facilities and laundry rooms are centrally located to the living areas.

* Dayrooms, volleyball courts, barbecues and “bohios” (covered picnic areas) are also located throughout the base.





is recommended; however, rag-type headcovers and bandannas will not be worn

- * Wear civilian clothing during travel within the USSOUTHCOM theater of operations on civilian aircraft.

General Guidelines

- * All DOD employees must carry their ID cards at all times

- * Identification tags will be worn when in uniform or flying

- * Men will not wear earrings or nipple rings of any type anywhere in Honduras

- * Headgear will not be worn around aircraft or helicopters preparing to take off or land

Appearance Standards

- * Service regulations governing standards of uniform wear and appearance will be followed

Uniform Wear

- * Battle dress uniform is the duty uniform
- * Aviators/service members whose duties involve flight operations will wear flight suits
- * Service dress uniforms (optional) for special occasions



Wearing of Civilian Clothing

On Soto Cano AB

- * Will reflect good taste and decency
- * Attire with sexual or demeaning messages, logos, or drawings will not be worn

Off Base

- * Civilian clothing is the rule of thumb
- * Appearance must create a favorable impression
- * Shirts will have sleeves, but collared shirts are not required
- * Wear of head gear for sun protection



Section IV

What to Bring

ARFOR

- Kevlar helmet with cover
- T-shirt, brown - 10 each
- One set of LBE
- *Boot socks - 10 each
- 1 Qt. Canteen - 2 each
- Mosquito netting
- Ammo pouches - 2 each
- Sleeping bag or poncho liner
- *Wet weather gear
- *Shaving kit/toiletries
- *Bath towels and washcloths
- *Soap dish
- *BDU uniforms - 4 each (summer weight)
- *Shoe shining kit
- *Watch and alarm clock (battery operated)
- *BDU headgear - 2 each
- *Underwear - 10 each
- *Boots - 2 pair (jungle boots are recommended)
- *Shower shoes
- *PT uniforms - 2 sets
- *Running shoes
- Class Bs with 2 sets of rank

AFFOR

- Common necessities listed above (*)
- T-shirt, black or brown - 10 each
- Air Force light blue shirt or blouse with slacks or skirt
- AF PT uniform is a gray AF T-shirt and dark blue shorts



1-228th

* All inbound soldiers are encouraged to contact the Battalion S1 as soon as they receive an RFO, at DSN 449-4306.

Other Items

- * Civilian clothing in good repair
- * Camera
- * Sports clothing and equipment
- * Personal locks
- * Cooking utensils
- * Stereo

NOTE: Prior to deploying, contact the office to which you are assigned to determine if any changes to this list have been made

General Information

- * Preventive Medicine
- * Current immunizations
- * Malaria pills
- * Prescribed medication for duration of tour
- * Annual GYN exam
- * Passports are a requirement. Also bring two additional passport-sized photos



Section V

Support Activities

ARFOR

- * Personnel transactions will be processed through the PAC, ARFOR
- * Members will initiate personnel actions through their respective orderly rooms
- * Members must hand carry the following:
 - * Immunization Record
 - * SGLI Option Form
 - * Legible copy of DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data
 - * Forms 2 and 2-1
 - * ORB (officers)
 - * DA Form 873, Certificate of Clearance
 - * Two copies of deployment orders
 - * Copy of latest OER/NCOER
 - * Valid civilian drivers license

AFFOR

- * Personnel transactions will be processed through the Mission Support Flight Orderly Room
- * Members must hand carry the following:
 - * OJT records (E-6 and below)
 - * Immunization Record
 - * 10 copies of TDY orders for processing
 - * Weight management case file (if applicable)
 - * Legible copy of DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data
 - * AF Form 330, which accounts for all required items
 - * AF Form 522, Weapons Qualification Card (if applicable)
 - * Passport, Medical and Dental Records, Family Support Record (for joint spouse with dependents)
 - * Valid civilian drivers license
 - * Identification Tags





1-228th Aviation

- * Personnel transactions will be processed through the PAC, 1-228
- * SGLI, DEERS, Forms 2 and 2-1, ORB, allotments, etc. will be taken care of by 1-228.
- * Members must hand carry the following:
- * Copy of latest OER/NCOER

MEDEL and JSF

Personnel assigned to these units will receive processing requirements directly from these units.

Finance

- * Available for check cashing and purchasing lempiras, the Honduran currency
- * Personal checks, U.S. Treasury checks or money orders can be cashed by active-duty military members for up to \$200 per week
- * Reservists may cash checks for up to \$50 per week
- * U.S. dollars are used in most on base facilities; lempiras will be used for most purchases on the local economy
- * New arrivals may exchange dollars for lempiras at the Finance Office, the Exchange, or the American Embassy in Tegucigalpa
- * No travel advances or per diem payments will be made for the original TDY to Honduras
- * This payment is the responsibility of service member's home duty station
- * Members should draw full advance before departing their home station
- * Currency black-marketing is illegal and is investigated by the CID

Dining Facility

- * All military members TDY to JTF-Bravo receive per diem, and must pay the applicable surcharges:
- * Breakfast: \$1.50 (\$1.25 for PCS)
- * Lunch: \$3.00 (\$2.45 for PCS)
- * Dinner: \$3.00 (\$2.45 for PCS)

Transportation

- * Arranges airline tickets for Air Mobility Command or commercial carrier
- * All members on extended TDY and PCS are authorized shipment of unaccompanied baggage
- * Authorization must be annotated on original TDY orders
- * Members on extended TDY are authorized shipment of unaccompanied baggage
- * Weight allowances are dependent on rank
- * All travel to and from Honduras will be by AMC
- * Exceptions may be granted only by the Commander, JTF-Bravo





Joint Personal Property Shipping Office (JPPSO)

Inprocessing

JPPSO is located in building K80B, hours of operation are Monday thru Friday, 0730-1930 hrs. Saturday deliveries are available from 0800-1200.

Incoming personnel with personal property shipment, need to inprocess through JPPSO. You must give your name, bldg#, and phone #. This information is needed to contact you when your shipment arrives. Your name will be posted at the JPPSO office once you have inprocessed, and it will indicate amount of boxes or crates, required delivery date and arrival date of your shipment. Once your shipment has arrived you will be contacted to arrange for delivery. You will be required to be available from 0730-1600. A representative from the JPPSO will be present during your delivery in case you have any questions.

If you have a loss or damage to your shipment you may file a claim. You must file with the Legal Advisor Office, located in building A-61, ext. 4154, within 70 days of receipt of shipment. You will need all the shipping documents as well as DD Form 1840, which you can get from JPPSO.



Outprocessing

Packout time is from 0800-1200 and 1300-1630 hrs. Do not call the JPPSO for a specific time. It's just like in the states, you must be here till they arrive. JPPSO does not do packouts on weekends

Personnel shipping HHG/UB, must make a appointment 30 days prior to departure. Come to JPPSO with ten (10) copies of your orders to arrange for a pick-up date. Your orders must authorize shipment of HHG/UB prior to making arrangements for pick-up. If your orders do not authorize shipment of HHG/UB, you must contact your home unit for amendments. Your orders can not be amended here. You must fill out DD Form 1701 inventory form, and return it to JPPSO prior to the packout date to enable the packers to bring proper size boxes/crates. A schedule will be posted with packouts for the following week with name, bldg# and date/time of packout.

Any wicker or wood products you have built or brought here must be dry not green and free of dirt and termites. If you have received items off the installation you may want to check with JPPSO to see if it is infected and needs to be fumigated. When scheduling your packout ensure you list all items on DD Form 1701 and notify the clerk of any outsize piece you may have that requires special packing or crating. It's recommended that you do not ship TA/50 mobility gear with your shipments. Household goods and unaccompanied baggage do take a certain amount of travel time and there's always the possibility of delayed or lost shipments.

Mail Services

* Postal services include stamps, money orders and package mailing

* No personal checks or traveler's checks are accepted as payment

Only U.S. Postal money orders can be cashed

Mailing addresses:

Rank, Name

PCS 42, Box #, or General Delivery

APO AA 34042

Laundry Service

* Base services operates an on-base laundry service; dry-cleaning is not available

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Services (MWR)

* Recreation Center

* Outdoor Swimming Pool

* Racquetball Courts

* Sports Fields

* Arts and Crafts Center

* Fitness Center

* Library

* Theater

* MWR tours

Other Activities

* Social Clubs

* Base Education Center

* American Red Cross

* Armed Forces Radio

* Cable television

* AAFES

* Chapel Program



Section VI

Honduras background information

Area

* Central, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Guatemala and Nicaragua, and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Nicaragua

* Total area: 112,090 square kilometers

* Land area: 111,890 square kilometers

* Comparative area: Slightly larger than Tennessee

Climate

* Sub-tropical in low lands, temperate in mountains

* Rainy Season (May to October); minimum/maximum temperature ranges 60/90 degrees

* Dry Season (November to April); minimum/maximum temperature ranges 55/95 degrees

Government

* Diagraph: HO

* Type: Republic

* Capital: Tegucigalpa

* Administrative Divisions: 18 Departments

* Independence: 15 September 1821 (from Spain)

* Constitution: 11 January 1982; effective 20 January 1982

* Flag: Three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white and blue with five blue five-pointed stars arranged in an "X" pattern centered in the white band; the stars represent the members of the former Federal Republic of Central America: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua



Economy

* One of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere

* Agriculture: The most important sector of the economy, accounts for more than 25 percent of the GDP, employs 62 percent of the labor force, and produces two-thirds of exports

* Industry: Still in its early stages, employs nearly nine percent of the labor force, accounts for 50 percent of GDP, and generates 20 percent of exports

* Service Sectors: Includes Public Administration, accounts for 50 percent of the GDP and employs nearly 20 percent of the labor force

* Basic problems facing the economy include rapid population growth, high unemployment, a lack of basic services, a large and inefficient public sector, and the dependence of the export sector mostly in coffee and bananas, which are subject to sharp price fluctuations



Armed Forces

* Branches: Army, Navy (including Marines), Air Force, Public Security Forces (FUSEP)

* Manpower availability: Males ages = 15 to 49, 1,185,072; fit for military service = 706,291; reach military age (18) annually = 58,583 (1993)

* Defense expenditures: About one percent of the GDP

People

* Population: 5,170,108 (July 1993)

* Life expectancy at birth: 67.17 years; male 64.82; female 69.62

* Ethnic Divisions: Mestizo (mixed Indian and European) 90 percent; Indian seven percent; Black two percent; White one percent

* Religions: Roman Catholic 97 percent; Protestant minority

* Languages: Spanish and Indian dialects

* Literacy: Age 15 and over can read and write (1990); total population 73 percent; male 76 percent; female 71 percent